

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06543 250733Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /028 W  
-----046675 250750Z /13

R 250717Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4744  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 06543

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OTRA, MILI, RP  
SUBJECT: TRIP TO STATES OF DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY  
- CARMELO BARBERO

REF: (A) MANILA 5495, (B) MANILA 6266, (C) USICA 1876

1. UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE CARMELO BARBERO DEPARTED  
MANILA APRIL 24 FOR THREE-WEEK TOUR OF U.S. ARRANGED  
BY ICA. (SEE REFS A AND B FOR ITINERARY AND SCHEDULE.)
2. WHILE IN WASHINGTON BARBERO HOPES TO MAKE CALL ON  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND PLANS TO VISIT DOD.  
(BARBERO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON MAY 10-18.)
3. BARBERO IS A CRAFTY ILOCANO WHOM MARCOS HAS REPEATEDLY  
TURNED TO FOR TOUGH POLITICAL JOBS. MARCOS NAMED HIM  
DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY IN 1976 TO LEAD EFFORTS TO IMPROVE  
CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS (MILITARY ABUSES OF AUTHORITY  
WERE A RECURRING THEME IN THE PRESS AT THAT TIME).
4. LATER IN 1976, MARCOS NAMED BARBERO TO LEAD NEGOTIA-  
TIONS WITH THE MNLF. HE WENT TO LIBYA IN THAT EFFORT,  
PRECEDING THE VISIT THERE BY MRS. MARCOS.

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5. MORE RECENTLY, MARCOS TAPPED BARBERO WITH RESPONSI-  
BILITIES FOR ORGANIZING THE APRIL 7 ELECTIONS. SUBSE-  
QUENT TO THOSE ELECTIONS BARBERO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL  
IN ARRANGING GOP CONTACT WITH THE CHURCH. HE PERSONALLY  
SET UP THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN MARCOS AND CARDINAL SIN.

6. BARBERO LONG HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING ANTI-AMERICAN. THERE IS A SHADOWY STORY THAT HIS MILITARY CAREER WAS BLIGHTED IN THE MID-1950'S BECAUSE A JUSMAG OFFICER EXPOSED HIM IN A BLACKMARKETING SCANDAL.

7. THE RECORD SHOWS THAT BARBERO HAS TWICE VISITED THE SOVIET UNION, ONCE AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST. SEVERAL YEARS AGO HE SENT A DAUGHTER FOR A YEAR'S SCHOOLING THERE.

8. IN 1976, BARBERO DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN GETTING TO KNOW SOME PEOPLE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM REVEALED AN OPEN AND INQUIRING MIND, WITH A SURPRISING BACKGROUND IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND POLITICS. HE EXPRESSED A LONG HELD DESIRE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES.

9. IN PREDEPARTURE CALL ON CHARGE, BARBERO EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN LEARNING FIRST-HAND WHAT THE USG THINKS OF THE MARCOS REGIME. HE SAID THAT MARCOS UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRESS SAYS WHAT IT WANTS BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS WHAT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT BELIEVE. BARBERO CLEARLY INTENDS TO CARRY HIS APPRAISAL OF THE WASHINGTON SCENE DIRECTLY TO MARCOS. HE WILL BE WORTH CAREFUL ATTENTION. STULL

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Subject:** TRIP TO STATES OF DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY - CARMELO BARBERO  
**TAGS:** OTRA, MILI, RP, DOD, (BARBERO, CARMELO)  
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**Type:** TE  
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